

TOWN MANAGER
Ken Deal

TOWN CLERK
Pamela Mills

TOWN ATTORNEY
Tom Brooke



MAYOR
Charles Seaford

TOWN COUNCIL
Don Bringle
Arthur Heggins
Brandon Linn
Rodney Phillips
Steve Stroud

TOWN OF CHINA GROVE

A regular meeting of the China Grove Town Council

Tuesday, June 1, 2021
6:00 p.m.

China Grove Town Hall
China Grove, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Seaford called the regular meeting of June 1st, 2021 to order. He led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Seaford called roll. All council members were present. There was a quorum.

Mr. Stroud made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Bringle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda items:

- a) Approve Minutes from May 4th, 2021 special meeting
- b) Approve Minutes from May 4th, 2021 regular meeting
- c) Adopt Budget Ordinance Amendment
- d) Adopt Ordinance to close northbound lane of Main Street for Cruise In
- e) Adopt Ordinance to close Main Street for Darrell Harwood Concert
- f) Adopt Ordinance to close Main Street for Farmers Day
- g) Approve funds for Board of Trade
- h) Adopt Resolution for Mutual Assistance Agreement

Mr. Linn made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Stroud seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

CITIZENS COMMENT

Randi Tolman – 226 West Church Street

Ms. Tolman stated her house is located near Mitchell Ave and she wanted to address her concerns with the traffic, speed and accidents on Hwy 152/Church Street. She stated the speed limit is 35 MPH and she feels it needs to be lowered. She stated she has talked to a lot of neighbors and they agree that it is a problem. She stated she is concerned with the amount of people that walk down the side of the street or cross the street. She stated she has spoken with NCDOT and they were going to count how many cars go down Church Street. She stated the Police Department has been very helpful with responding to her concerns. She stated there is also a pot hole in front of her house. She requested the Town Council look into changing the speed limit from 35 to 25 MPH to help with safety.

NEW BUSINESS

- I) Cancel July Regular Meeting

Mr. Stroud made the motion to cancel the July 6th, 2021 Regular Meeting. Mr. Linn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

II) Change the Date of the August Regular Meeting for National Night Out

Mr. Stroud made the motion to change the August 3rd, 2021 Regular meeting to August 10th, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. Mr. Linn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

I) Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Adoption

Mayor Seaford opened the Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Adoption for public comments.

There were no comments.

Mayor Seaford closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Deal stated the proposed budget was amended to included what the Council asked to add at the May 4th meeting. He stated the proposed budget includes a tax increase of .05 cents instead of a fee based on what the majority of the Council asked for.

Mr. Linn stated if we went the fee route, how would residence that do not have a water bill get billed for the trash service. Mr. Deal stated we are going to have to figure out how many residents have trash service without water service and see if SRU will bill those. He stated there is a percentage that SRU will charge us for adding the fee to the water bill. He stated we looked at the average household being \$150,000.00 and the tax payer would come out ahead with a .05 cents tax increase vs a fee. He stated SRU is installing a new software system and they stated they would not be able to add the fee until after October.

Mr. Phillips stated the Council asked for a couple of items to be added to the budget, did they all make it to this proposed budget. Mayor Seaford stated yes everything we asked for made it into this budget.

Mr. Bringle stated our sales tax numbers have exceeded what we expected. He stated people are out spending and this has been good for our economy. Mr. Bringle stated he is not in favor for a tax increase he would rather set a fee for garbage service. Mr. Linn stated he also is not in favor of a tax increase this year and would like to set a fee as well. Mr. Deal stated we do have the option to add a tax increase this year and then add a fee next year and remove the tax increase. Mayor Seaford stated he is in agreeance to add the tax with the option to remove it next year since SRU may not be able to add the fee until after October. Mr. Stroud stated the town has been on a good track for the last couple of years. He stated with the price of everything increase the town needs to do one of the two. He stated he believes the majority of the residents would benefit from a tax increase instead of a fee. He stated we have been conservative with town funds. Mr. Bringle stated he agrees we have been a frugal Board, but it has come to a point that the town has more needs than dollars. Mr. Heggins stated he spoke to several people in the community and they were all alright with a tax increase instead of a fee. Mr. Phillips stated he leans more towards the fee because every resident pays the same amount. He stated implementing a fee is a little more complicated than a tax increase.

a) Motion to Adopt Proposed Budget Ordinance for FY 21-22

Mr. Stroud made a motion to adopt the proposed Budget Ordinance for FY 21-22 with the .05 cents tax increase. Mr. Heggins seconded the motion, with Mr. Phillips, Mr. Linn, and Mr. Bringle opposing. The motion failed.

Mr. Bringle made a motion to give the Town Manager the authority to set the garbage collection fee and direct SRU to apply the fee as soon as possible. He stated the town will incur the cost during the time period before SRU is able to apply the fee. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Bringle made a motion to adopt the proposed Budget Ordinance for FY 21-22 without the Town Managers recommended .05 cents tax increase, appropriating \$62,123.00 from fund balance with the expectation of collecting \$120,000.00 from the garbage collection revenue during the FY 21-22. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b) Motion to Adopt Fee Schedule for FY 21-22

Mr. Phillips made a motion to adopt the Fee Schedule FY 21-22 with the addition of a Garbage Collection Fee. Mr. Heggins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

II) 2021-TA-04 Chapter 160D Amendments

Mayor Seaford opened the public hearing.

There were no comments.

Mayor Seaford closed the public hearing.

Mayor Seaford thanked Mr. Gover for taking the time to sit down with the Council members individually to review the amendments.

Mr. Phillips made a motion to approve 2021-TA-04 to incorporate NCGS Chapter 160D changes into the Unified Development Ordinance. He stated these amendments are consistent with China Grove's adopted land use plan and Unified Development Ordinance ensuring compliance with the new Chapter 160D of the North Carolina General Statutes. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Mr. Bringle thanked Mr. Luebbe and the staff for all their work on the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Stroud made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bringle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela L. Mills, CMC
Town Clerk

Charles Seaford
Mayor